



Annual Report
2019



letter from the executive director



Continuous Improvement: an ongoing effort to improve products, services, or processes. These efforts can seek “incremental” improvement over time or “breakthrough” improvement all at once. [Wikipedia]

That pretty much sums up 2019 – what a year of both incremental change and breakthrough ideas! Building upon past years of growth, Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps worked hard to establish systems, fill calendars, tweak schedules, enroll Corpsmembers, plan trainings, host workshops, solicit feedback and act nimbly to improve the overall program experience this past year. I hope you enjoy the outcomes of all the resulting activity in this Annual Report!

A heightened priority throughout the year was robust preparation and training for everyone involved, especially our Corpsmembers. We made an effort to improve our initial orientation by honing in on areas of special interest (window restoration, carpentry) and concern (cooking for a whole crew on a camp stove, trailer driving). Outside trainers worked with us to better tailor agenda items to our needs. The staff all offered workshops on areas of personal expertise, from Leave No Trace to lead safety and from power tools to teambuilding. We experimented with our leadership model and put the Corpsmembers in the driver’s seat by rotating crew roles – building confidence and empowering them to take a greater responsibility in running their projects. It was impressive to watch them lift each other up, and to witness their return hitch upon hitch with big smiles on their faces and hugs all around.

Of course, training doesn’t end after the first orientation hitch – service learning is fundamentally built into each and every project. Our Corpsmembers learn by doing and even by teaching, as evidenced by the handful of public workshops we offered this year. Crews are guided by our Project Hosts and Technical Specialists, without whom we would not exist and for whom we are grateful. Our hope is to spark a long-term interest in the preservation trades in each and every Corpsmember by engaging with experts in the field. These often are folks who are looking to pass along their career skills to the next generation. While we acknowledge that not every young adult who joins our program will make a career of historic preservation, I’m willing to bet that they’ll be far stronger community advocates because of this experience. And the maintenance and future of all those fabulous historic sites will only continue to improve, too.

Jill Baum
Executive Director

organization timeline



mission

To develop enduring workforce and life skills through service learning in historic preservation and community stewardship.

values



Serving



Transforming



Preserving



Honoring

what is a corps?

Following in the footsteps of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the corps program model addresses the skills gap between education and employment. Corps are locally-based organizations that engage young people (generally ages 16-25) and veterans (up to age 35) in service projects that address recreation, conservation, disaster response, community needs and historic preservation. Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps is one of 130 corps that are part of The Corps Network (TCN), formerly the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps.

northern bedrock historic preservation corpsmember program

We focus on young adults ages 18-25 who are interested in gaining hands-on experience in the preservation trades. Our 2019 Corpsmembers were selected from all backgrounds and walks of life for their enthusiasm, desire to learn and commitment to serve for three- or six-month terms. They received a Living Stipend in exchange for their service on one of three field crews. The crew schedule consisted of twelve, eight-day, camping-based project hitches that ran from May through October, with six days off between hitches. Projects were planned and funded through partnerships with a variety of groups throughout the state of Minnesota, including

non-profit organizations and government entities at all levels (federal, state, county and local). Our Corpsmembers are eligible to receive an Education Award from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) upon successful completion of their AmeriCorps term of service. Other benefits include student loan deferment, leadership and team-building experience, an introduction to a wide variety of historic preservation trades, mentoring from staff and technical experts in the field, outdoor living skills development, and a chance to practice real world communication, project management and community engagement.



skills learned



Leadership and Teamwork

Corpsmembers served in rotating leadership roles on our three field crews. Crews cooked meals together, camped under the stars (or rain clouds) and traveled throughout the state to improve the structures, landscapes and communities they served.

Window Restoration

Corpsmembers scraped paint, removed glazing, replaced glass, re-glazed, painted and repaired window sashes at five different sites. Corpsmembers additionally learned to fix the internal workings of double hung windows so they slide correctly.



Cemetery Restoration

Crews reset, cleaned and edged monuments in 13 cemeteries across MN. This work mitigates the future safety and liability concerns of toppling heavy headstones in these public spaces and instills a deep sense of history in our Corpsmembers.

Masonry

Crews restored three rock walls and a staircase that had missing mortar and/or stones or needed cleaning. Corpsmembers learned to evaluate and apply mortar, replace rocks, pour a cap and clean rock walls.



Carpentry

Crews learned foundational carpentry skills including tool usage and safety, and basic construction techniques. Projects included window and door sill repair, porch restoration and deck construction, notably at our National Forest sites (including Halfway Ranger Station).

Documentation

We documented each project through photos and individual hitch reports. These reports are used by hosts when determining priority maintenance tasks, highlight what Northern Bedrock crews are able to accomplish and accurately document work completed.



Plaster Restoration

Crews helped restore rooms in historic buildings by repairing walls and replacing basement plaster with cement boards. Corpsmembers learned to repair cracks and holes, create a hand palm texture, install furring strips, tape cracks and plaster over cement boards to provide a historically accurate finish.

2019 by the numbers

- 31** project hosts
- 24** corpsmembers served
- 17** technical specialists taught trade skills
- 5** staff organized programming



- 17,720** hours of historic preservation work
- 16,117** corpsmember service hours
- 6,440** square feet of painting and stain removed and/or applied
- 2,111** floor boards salvaged - nails removed
- 1,480** cemetery monuments maintained and repaired
- 300** square feet of graffiti covered
- 100** square feet of siding installed
- 76** windows re-glazed
- 67** stumps leveled at halfway ranger station historic district
- 51** historic structures improved
- 13** cemeteries improved
- 7** historic buildings cleaned and hazards mitigated
- 6** log buildings treated to control pests
- 3** porches repaired and restored
- 2** rock features restored
- 1** successful field season celebrated

“ I’m walking away from this experience having gained so much. The friendships and connections that came from working on a strong team are very important to me. I also gained a lot of confidence from working out of my comfort zone so much - I was challenged a lot and found a stronger sense of competence in the work I do. ”

-Corpsmember
post-program survey

corpsmember experience

Upon completion of this program (as compared to pre-program surveys)

- 95%** are likely to volunteer in their community, up from 73%
- 83%** have a solid technical skill base, up from 57%
- 59%** know what they want to do in their careers, up from 30%



sites and projects* in 2019

Hitch 1: 5/15-5/22

1. Program Orientation and Training, Halfway Ranger Station, Ely

Hitch 2: 5/29-6/5

2. Harrison Park, Duluth - removed invasive species and restored the rock wall
3. Western Lake Superior Habitat for Humanity, Duluth - built two sheds

Hitch 3: 6/12-6/19

2. Harrison Park, Duluth - restored the rock wall
4. Hay Lake Museum, Marine on St. Croix - repaired door, painted and landscaped
5. Gammelgarden Museum, Scandia - built a door and restored the exterior
6. St. John's Landing, St. Croix State Park, Hinckley - installed bunk railings and repaired storms
7. University of Minnesota Cloquet Forestry Center, Cloquet - painted signs and landscaped

Hitch 4: 6/26-7/3

8. Oakland Cemetery, Marine on St. Croix
9. Lakeside Cemetery, Hastings
10. Withrow Cemetery, Hugo
11. St. Matthews Cemetery, Stillwater

Hitch 5: 7/10-7/17

12. Chippewa National Forest
 - a. Supervisor's Office - replaced a kiosk wood shake roof
 - b. Norway Beach Visitor Center - cleaned and treated to control pests
 - c. Cut Foot Sioux Ranger Station - restored windows
13. Heritage Group North, Pine Ridge Cemetery, Pine River
14. Chisago Lakes Lutheran Church Cemetery and Glader Cemetery, Center City

Hitch 6: 7/24-7/31

15. Old Sandstone School, Sandstone - cleaned interior spaces and landscaped
16. Pope County Museum, Glenwood - repaired a porch, scraped and painted, and moved historic machinery
17. Superior National Forest - South Kawishiwi Pavilion Cantilevered Deck, Ely - helped to remove the unsafe pavilion deck

*All cemetery projects included monument cleaning, edging and resetting, and landscaping.

Hitch 7: 8/7-8/14

1. Mid-Season Orientation, Halfway Ranger Station, Ely
18. City of Ely Cemetery
19. Dorothy Molter Museum, Ely - restored windows

Hitch 8: 8/21-8/28

12. Chippewa National Forest
 - d. CCC Camp Rabideau - scraped and painted
20. Westbrook Heritage House Museum, Westbrook - restored windows
21. Slayton Cemetery, Slayton
22. Anderson Center at Tower View, Red Wing - restored windows

Hitch 9: 9/4-9/6

23. Adas Cemetery, Duluth
24. Forest Hill Cemetery, Duluth

Hitch 9.5: 9/10-9/14

25. Riverside Park, St. Cloud - tuckpointed and cleaned rock wall and staircase
26. Salem Historic Cemetery, Paynesville

Hitch 10: 9/18-9/25

27. Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery, Minneapolis
28. City of Stillwater South Main Archaeological District - removed invasive species
8. Oakland Cemetery, Marine on St. Croix
17. Superior National Forest - South Kawishiwi Pavilion Cantilevered Deck, Ely - helped to rebuild the pavilion deck

Hitch 11: 10/2-10/9

1. Halfway Ranger Station, Ely
17. Superior National Forest - South Kawishiwi Pavilion Cantilevered Deck, Ely - helped to rebuild the pavilion deck
29. Grand Portage National Monument - restored sections of the stockade

Hitch 12: 10/16-10/23

30. Hennepin History Museum, Minneapolis - restored built-in bookcases, repaired plaster walls and painted
31. New Hope for Families, Duluth - repaired plaster walls

Bonus Hitch: 10/26-10/28

31. New Hope for Families, Duluth - repaired plaster walls





2019 partnerships

- AmeriCorps
- Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa (CCMI)
- Damiano Center
- Glensheen Mansion
- Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums (MALHM)
- Minnesota Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment
- Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS)
- Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- MN OSHA WSC Safety Grant Program
- Northland AmeriCorps Collaborative
- Northland History Coalition
- National Park Service (NPS)
- Rethos (formerly known as PAM)
- Superior Fuel
- The Corps Network (TCN)
- USDA Forest Service

21ST CENTURY CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS

Northern Bedrock is accredited as a 21CSC. This provides relevant federal agencies and departments the enhanced ability to engage corps through public-private partnerships to complete pressing projects, which encourages coordination across the federal government. Participating agencies and departments including the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Transportation, Defense, Veterans Affairs, Labor, Energy and NOAA, the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Corporation for National and Community Service.

halfway ranger station historic district



Halfway's Significance

The Halfway Ranger Station Historic District is located on the South Kawishiwi River, 12 miles southeast of Ely, on approximately 12 acres of land in the Superior National Forest. The Station dates back to the early 1900s and has a rich history that includes the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and many decades of wildlife conservation research.

The station boasts an architecturally unique complex of buildings, including seven prime examples of CCC-built Rustic/Adirondack-style log buildings. The history and surviving structures of this site are unmatched nationally.

In 2015, Northern Bedrock entered into a participating agreement with the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station to conduct programming and maintain the site. We hope to implement an adaptive reuse plan in order to expand programming and future use of this unique site.

Orientation

By far our favorite current use of Halfway is as our premier program orientation and training site. After a mid-May morning of introductions and enrollment paperwork in the office, all Corpsmembers and staff headed up to Halfway for a full-immersion hitch of living and learning together. Hands-on trainings included team building, OSHA 10, First Aid/CPR, Leave No Trace, risk management, crew leadership, tool use and safety, AmeriCorps policies, spike camp management, meal planning and historic preservation 101. They additionally put in a full day of window restoration and site maintenance.

We again travelled to Halfway in early August to welcome our second-half Corpsmembers and revisit a few training topics with the whole team - plus enjoy a few dips in the river.

“My hope for this program is to be able to not only have the skills to bring back to the farm, but potentially to get a job in the field. I am a little lost in life right now, and I see historic preservation work as a profession I could pursue. I find it to be fulfilling and interesting work that serves a greater good. I keep trying to find something that fits at the intersection of my ‘great hunger and the world’s great need.’ Right now I can see this work fitting that space. If it doesn’t become my life forever, I can still have this knowledge and experience that I can always return to.”

-Corpsmember pre-season hitch survey





MNHS Large Grant

Northern Bedrock was awarded a Legacy Funds Large Grant for the rehabilitation of the Ranger Dwelling and the Lake State Forest Experimental Station (LSFES) Buildings. Thanks to this funding, we updated the Ranger Dwelling kitchen for future use, installed a new furnace, repaired the roof, refinished floors, restored windows, logs and both porches, and cleaned and insulated the attic. Additionally, the LSFES roof was replaced and the wood siding was repaired and painted.

Passport In Time Project

US Forest Service Passport In Time (PIT) volunteers assisted us in early October on larger projects with our crews. Together we were able to make real progress on the Ranger Dwelling (despite the unrelenting weather):

- The windows and storms were re-glazed and painted.
- Front porch screening was installed, and the floors were repaired and refinished.
- The sagging side porch was raised with new log footing supports.
- Half-log fascia was replaced and painted in numerous locations.
- A few exterior half logs were replaced and painted.
- Interior floor tile adhesive was painstakingly removed with wallpaper steamers and scrapers.
- Pest remnants were mitigated in the attic.

The PIT volunteers also helped to stabilize multiple sections of rapidly deteriorating warehouse logs. Many thanks to our seven intrepid volunteers for their company and contributions!



Removing Rot



Refacing the Log



Finishing the Exterior



technical specialists

We are always on the lookout for experts in the field to teach, train and help manage our Corpsmembers while completing service projects. These “Technical Specialists” are paid consultants who play a vital role in our programming by enabling us to offer significant hands-on project opportunities. They serve as role models, properly demonstrating project planning, trade techniques and risk management - all while mentoring young adults who represent a broad spectrum of previous experience. When selecting Technical Specialists, we look for demonstrated skills in a trade or technique required for specific projects (especially historic masonry, plaster, carpentry and log work); prior hands-on training and leadership experience, preferably with young adults; and a strong risk management focus and track record.

public workshops

This year we expanded our community outreach efforts by offering a handful of specialized workshops to the public. Thank you to our Project Hosts and Technical Specialists for helping to make these happen!

Masonry

Corpsmembers worked in collaboration with the City of Duluth Department of Parks and Recreation and the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota (PAM, now Rethos) to restore a historic rock wall at Harrison Park. We offered a one-day workshop at this site to residents who had an interest in historic masonry or home projects of their own. Corpsmembers presented the safety walk-through and introduction to the tools and then assisted at each of the six hands-on learning stations. Crews completed the project during the rest of the hitch and the one following, under the guidance of Technical Specialist Mike Braun.



Cemetery

All three crews spent four days immersed in cemetery maintenance and restoration technique training at Oakland Cemetery in Marine on St. Croix, led by Jonathan Appel of Atlas Preservation. Projects included cleaning, edging, repairing and resetting monuments, skills which all Corpsmembers put to use throughout the entire season. Later in the season, crews offered a scaled-down version of this training to public audiences at two locations, solidifying their restoration skills by teaching them to others.



Window Restoration

Again in conjunction with PAM, we were pleased to offer a sold-out, full-day window restoration workshop to the Duluth public in early spring, before our season even began. Presenter Joe Hayes has since become one of our favorite new Technical Specialists! We look forward to working with him again next field season, and we hope to offer another public workshop or two...

current board of directors

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Kaitlyn Rudolph, Treasurer	Walt Ogstad
Laura Leppink, Secretary	Charley Langowski
Paul Ormseth	Rachel Peterson

2019 field season staff

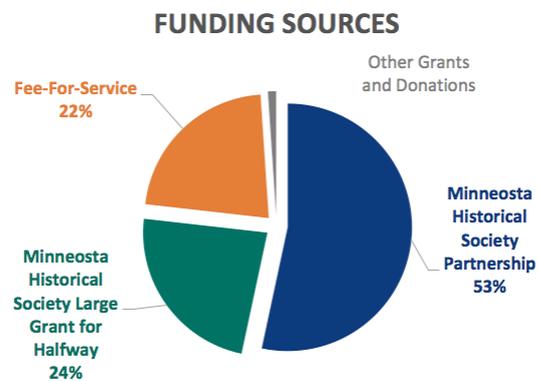
Jill Baum, Executive Director
 Rhea Harvey, Operations Director
 Jessica Fortney, Program Manager
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 Fitzie Heimdahl, Project Coordinator



financial summary

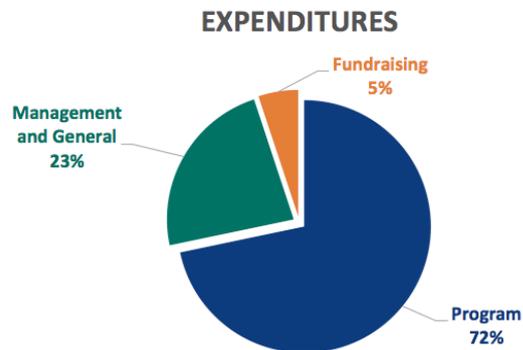
Funding Sources

Minnesota Historical Society	
- Organizational Partnership	\$450,000
- Large Grant for Halfway	\$197,800
Fee-for-Service	\$186,761
Grants and Donations	\$ 8,969
Total Funding Sources	\$843,529



Expenditures

Program	\$527,785
Management and General	\$170,847
Fundraising	\$ 37,365
Total Expenditures	\$736,025



In-kind Contributions

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our crews throughout the field season. They devoured the donations of pizza dinners, bagels, chocolate milk and other tasty treats. They learned so much from all the in house expertise and guided tours. Thank you for all of the overnight arrangements including camping and space in creative places like cabooses to house our crews for the service project. We could not do this work, and it wouldn't be as fun, without all of these contributions!



MINNESOTA
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

21ST CENTURY
CONSERVATION
SERVICE CORPS



Proud Member of
The Corps Network
Strengthening America through
service and conservation